

As I say, I am proud to say that when I lived in California, as a citizen, as a matter of constitutional conscience, I voted against every single initiative, even those with which I agreed, because I wanted to preserve the concept of a representative republic that is the foundation of our liberties.

I thank the Senator from West Virginia for this most scholarly presentation. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to be here to hear it.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator for his observations. I am grateful for his presence at this time and grateful for the perceptions that he has expressed to us based on his experiences in living in the great State of California.

I thank him. I think he is a scholar, a real scholar of our form of government and interested in keeping this republic as Benjamin Franklin so wisely admonished the lady. I thank him very much.

Mr. BENNETT. I thank the Senator for his kind words.

FEDERAL VACANCIES REFORM ACT OF 1998—PERMISSION TO FILE AMENDMENTS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Members have until 1 p.m. today to file first-degree amendments to the vacancies bill, notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, September 24, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,523,268,372,227.36 (Five trillion, five hundred twenty-three billion, two hundred sixty-eight million, three hundred seventy-two thousand, two hundred twenty-seven dollars and thirty-six cents).

One year ago, September 24, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,384,225,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred eighty-four billion, two hundred twenty-five million).

Five years ago, September 24, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,381,848,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred eighty-one billion, eight hundred forty-eight million).

Twenty-five years ago, September 24, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$459,783,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-nine billion, seven hundred eighty-three million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,063,485,372,227.36 (Five trillion, sixty-three billion, four hundred eighty-five million, three hundred seventy-two thousand, two hundred twenty-seven dollars and thirty-six cents) during the past 25 years.

WE NEED TO RATIFY THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY NOW

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, yesterday marked the 35th Anniversary of the Senate's ratification of the Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963. Unfortunately, we still have not achieved the larger goal of ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. In fact, the Treaty has languished in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for a year with no debate, no action, and no results.

As President KENNEDY said about the Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963, "The conclusion of such a treaty * * * would check the spiraling arms race in one of its most dangerous areas. It would place the nuclear powers in a position to deal more effectively with one of the greatest hazards which man faces in 1963, the further spread of nuclear arms." Thirty-five years later, those words are truer than ever.

Nuclear proliferation is one of the most serious national security threats we face. Earlier this year, the nuclear tests in India and Pakistan reminded us that we must do all we can to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty as soon as possible.

On Wednesday, at the United Nations, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan announced his intent to sign the test ban treaty within the next year. The Prime Minister linked this decision to the lifting of sanctions imposed in the wake of last May's nuclear tests. Yesterday, India's Prime Minister Vajpayee followed suit and announced to the U.N. General Assembly that his nation would also sign the Treaty within the year.

If both Pakistan and India sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, only North Korea will remain outside the worldwide group of nations in continuing to develop their nuclear program. Prompt U.S. ratification of the Treaty would not only demonstrate our support for Pakistan and India, but also encourage North Korea to join the world and reject nuclear testing.

The recent tests by India and Pakistan are ominous proof that the greatest threat to humanity is still the danger of nuclear war. The CTBT would give the United States access to a vast worldwide network of nuclear monitoring stations. These additional stations would blanket the globe with sensors that can detect radiation, feel the ground shake from a nuclear test, or hear the sounds emanating underwater from a nuclear explosion. This network is possible only through the cooperative efforts of the CTBT, and it will clearly strengthen our national security.

We face a unique opportunity in the Senate, an opportunity to help the world pull back from the nuclear brink and end nuclear testing once and for all. Other nations look to the United States for international leadership. President Clinton has done his part, in signing the Treaty and submitting it to

the Senate for ratification, as the Constitution requires. Now the Senate should do its part, and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Treaty ratification is the single most important step we can take today to reduce the dangers of nuclear war.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:46 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2281) to amend title 17, United States Code, to implement the World Intellectual Property Organization Copyright Treaty and Performances and Phonograms Treaty, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. HYDE, Mr. COBLE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. BERMAN.

From the Committee on Commerce, for consideration of the House bill and Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BLILEY, Mr. TAUZIN, and Mr. DINGELL.

At 12:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3736. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make changes relating to H-1B nonimmigrants.

The message also announced that the House insists upon its amendment to the bill (S. 2206) to amend the Head Start Act, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, and the Community Services Block Grant Act to reauthorize and make improvements to those Acts, to establish demonstration projects that provide an opportunity for persons with limited means to accumulate assets, and for other purposes, disagreed to by the Senate, and agrees to the conference asked by